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GREAT HARWOOD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR

1951



**GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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# **Annual Report**

on the

**HEALTH AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION**

**OF THE DISTRICT for the Year 1951**

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**R. C. WEBSTER,**

Medical Officer of Health.

**G. WALMSLEY,**

Sanitary Inspector and

Cleansing Superintendent.



**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**1951-1952**

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**Chairman :**

Councillor W. RUTTER, J.P.

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**Vice-Chairman :**

Councillor F. AINSWORTH.

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**Committee :**

Councillors G. A. Monckman, J.P., H. Doswell, A. M. Sagar, T. H. Seed, J.P., W. Slyn, W. Pidgeon, Dr. R. C. U. Warrington, E. Whalley, J. Wyatt, T. Henderson.



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Administrative Staff**

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**Medical Officer of Health and**

**Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5 Division) :**

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

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**Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :**

G. WALMSLEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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**Clerical Assistant :**

Mrs. Y. J. MURRAY





Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of Great Harwood.

Once more deaths exceed births. The decline in the population of the town which this causes tends mathematically to increase in rate.

Infant mortality continued to be low, and to occur only from causes which could not be prevented.

Studying the lists of deaths, one notes the high proportion occurring at the age of 65, and from conditions which may be classed as fair wear and tear.

The health of the town in general compares not unfavourably with that of many areas better favoured as to housing and climate, and it is pleasant to see the healthy children in our streets, our schools, and our clinics.

The new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were 1.2 per 1,000 of the population, and deaths 0.28 per 1,000. These figures are satisfactorily low.

To Mr. Walmsley and his staff, to the Clerk of the Council, to yourself, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Council, I again offer sincere thanks for kindly help and interest throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

### General

Area in acres .....	2,868
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1951 .....	3,825
Rateable value .....	£65,219
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£25 1
Population at 1931 census .....	12,876
Estimated population for 1951 .....	10,700
The principal industries are cotton weaving and light engineering trades, etc.	

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## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births

	Males		Female		Total
Illegitimate .....	Nil	.....	1	....	1
Legitimate .....	67	.....	62	.....	129
Total .....	130				

### Still Births

	Males		Female		Total
Legitimate .....	Nil	.....	1	.....	1
Illegitimate .....	Nil	.....	Nil	.....	Nil
Total .....	1				
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births .....	12.7				

### Deaths

	Males		Female		Total
Deaths .....	97	.....	108	....	205
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population :					
Crude .....	19.2				
Adjusted .....	16.1				
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population					
(England and Wales) .....	12.5				



## Infant Mortality

Infants under the age of one year—

	Males		Female		Total
Legitimate .....	3	.....	1	.....	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	.....	Nil	.....	Nil

Comparative Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1951.

## Births

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
Live Births .....	15.50	17.30	16.70	12.10
Still Births .....	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.36

## Deaths

All causes .....	12.50	13.40	12.50	16.10
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis .....	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.28
Influenza .....	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.65
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia .....	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.46



## Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	<sup>148</sup> Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
<b>Notifications (Corrected)</b>				
Typhoid Fever .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Meningococcal Infection .....	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever .....	1.11	1.20	1.20	2.33
Whooping Cough ...	3.87	3.62	4.00	4.37
Diphtheria .....	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas .....	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.09
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles .....	14.07	13.93	14.82	26.16
Pneumonia .....	0.99	1.04	0.96	1.68
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioenceph- alitis), Paralytic ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Non-Paralytic .....	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning .....	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.00

## Deaths

	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age .....	29.60 (a)	33.90	27.60	30.70
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 y'rs of age	1.40	1.60	1.00	0.00

## Notifications (Corrected)

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .....	10.66	13.77	8.08	0.00





## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Laboratory Facilities**

All Pathological and Bacteriological work for the Health Department is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. No difficulties were encountered during the year, and valuable assistance and advice was given by the laboratory staff on many occasions. Sputum examinations for Tuberculosis were carried out at the dispensary situated in Accrington.

### **Ambulance Service**

This service is administered by the No. 5 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council. A new ambulance garage was completed during the year, and two ambulances and one sitting case car are available for the district. The ambulance station is now day-manned, and night calls are dealt with by the ambulance station at Accrington.

### **Infectious Disease Cases**

All infectious patients are conveyed by arrangements with the infectious disease hospitals in the neighbouring authorities.

### **Tuberculosis**

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

Ten cases were removed from the register during the year, the causes of removal being as follows :

Deaths from Tuberculosis .....	3
Deaths from other causes .....	Nil
Diagnosis not confirmed .....	1
Recovered .....	3
Removed .....	3



Fourteen cases were added to the register, and the following table shows the age group incidence of the new cases and deaths during 1951.

Ages	New Cases					Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 .....	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
1 .....	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
2 .....	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
5 .....	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
10 .....	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
15 .....	-	1	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
20 .....	1	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
25 .....	1	3	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
35 .....	4	-	...	-	...	1	-	...	-	-
45 .....	-	1	...	1	...	1	-	...	-	-
55 .....	-	-	...	-	...	1	-	...	-	-
65 .....	2	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
75 & upwards	-	-	...	-	...	-	-	...	-	-
	8	5	...	1	Nil	...	3	Nil	...	Nil

### Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified :—

Disease	Total	Deaths
Measles .....	280	1
Whooping Cough .....	47	-
Pneumonia .....	18	5
Dysentery .....	26	-
Scarlet Fever .....	25	-
Erysipelas .....	1	-



### **Diphtheria**

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. The diphtheria immunisation administration is carried out by the Divisional Health Authority.

### **Home Help**

The Home Help Service is administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

### **Scabies**

No cases were reported during the year, and the Clinic at the Fire Station yard has now been discontinued.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare**

A weekly clinic is held at the Mercer Hall for children under five years, and a pre-natal clinic is held once a fortnight. The duties are under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, No. 5 Health Division.

### **Day Nurseries**

Two day nurseries are in operation. Both were well attended during the year.

### **Water Supply**

During the year an unsatisfactory sample caused an investigation to be made of part of the gathering grounds. A source of pollution was suspected and steps have been taken to re-drain the area. Two samples of water were taken from private supplies and submitted for Bacteriological examination, the results being satisfactory.

### **Drainage and Sewerage**

No sewer extensions were carried out during the year. A full report was submitted to the Council by an independent Civil Engineer with a view to eliminating the flooding which occurs periodically in various parts of the district. The report, which is very extensive, is being considered by the Council.

### **Public Baths**

There are no public swimming baths in the district



### **Schools**

No closure was necessary during the year.

### **Mortuary**

There were 10 bodies taken to the mortuary during the year.

### **Housing**

No Council houses were erected during the year of 1951, due to delays in obtaining plans and tenders. Seven houses were erected by private builders.

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## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY OTHER AUTHORITIES AVAILABLE TO GREAT HARWOOD**

- (a) Divisional Health Committee (Office at 19, St. James Street, Accrington. Tel. Accrington 4223)  
Divisional Medical Officer : Dr. Webster.  
Ante-natal Clinics : Mercer Hall, Great Harwood. Alternate Thursday mornings.  
County Clinic : High Street, Rishton. First and third Wednesday each month.  
Child Welfare Clinic : Mercer Hall, Great Harwood. All day, every Wednesday. Immunisation and U.V.R. by appointment.  
Health Visitor : Miss S. V. Hitchen, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.  
District Nurse : Miss Oldale, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse.  
Midwife : Mrs. Izatt, S.C.M., S.R.N.  
For the following, enquiries to be made at the Divisional Office : Day Nurseries ; Domestic Helps ; Mental Health Service ; Accommodation for the elderly (NOT sick) persons.
- (b) Divisional Education Executive—Divisional Medical Officer : Dr. Webster.  
School medical routine and special examinations.  
Minor ailment clinic every Friday morning.  
Ophthalmic and Orthopædic Clinics (by appointment) at High Street, Rishton.





- (c) Regional Hospital Board—Hospitals in Blackburn and Accrington.

IT CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY EMPHASISED THAT HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS ARE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

There is still widespread misunderstanding. The Divisional Medical Officer can inform the hospital as to home conditions, but he has NO direct power to admit anyone to any hospital.



## Causes of Death

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	3	0	3
Tuberculosis, others .....	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	1	0	1
Other infectious and parasitic diseases .....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	7	4	11
Leukæmia, alukæmia .....	0	0	0
Diabetes .....	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	11	24	35
Coronary disease, angina .....	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease .....	3	8	11
Other heart diseases .....	29	41	70
Other circulatory diseases .....	2	0	2
Influenza .....	3	4	7
Pneumonia .....	4	1	5
Bronchitis .....	8	3	11
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	4	1	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa .....	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	0	0	0
Congenital malformation .....	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	6	12	18
Motor vehicle accidents .....	0	0	0
All other accidents .....	0	0	0
Suicide .....	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0
All causes — Total .....	97	108	205



**GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**R E P O R T**

of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

and

**CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT**



**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1951. The cleansing service was improved by the addition of a mechanical gulley emptier, this vehicle being converted from a refuse wagon. The machine is giving excellent service, and it is a useful acquisition to the cleansing department.

Housing is still one of the major problems, and, although new houses are being erected, many of the existing houses are deteriorating to an alarming degree. The repairs and improvements to existing dwellings are a serious problem, and it will require all the resources of the building trade for a number of years to improve the amenities of a considerable number of terraced dwelling houses.

One pleasing feature of the year was the excellent results obtained by the salvage drive. A record tonnage was obtained, and, in addition to increased receipts, a prize of £50 was won in a competition organised by the Waste Paper Recovery Association.

In this, my fourth annual report, I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support, and I am also grateful for the assistance extended to me during the year by the Council's Officials and staff.

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.





## MEAT AND FOOD SUPERVISION

### Meat Inspection

The slaughter of pigs is carried out at a private slaughterhouse, and the following table presents a report of the activities during the year.

#### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number killed .....	2052
Number inspected .....	2052
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—	
Whole carcasses condemned .....	Nil
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	5.5%
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	115
Tuberculosis only—	
Whole carcasses condemned .....	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	175
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis .....	8.4%

#### Unsound Food

Tinned Milk .....	45
Tinned Fruit and Vegetables .....	127
Tinned Meat and Fish .....	93
Meat and Poultry .....	14lb.
Cereals .....	5 pkts.
Cheese .....	9 pkts.
Sauce .....	1 bottle.
Soup .....	2 tins
Beverage .....	2 tins

#### Milk and Dairies

Number of Farms .....	17
Ungraded Producers .....	9
Accredited Producers .....	3
"T.T." Producers .....	5

#### Sampling Milk

Grade of Milk	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test			Tubercle Bacilli Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.		Sat.	Unsat.		Neg.	Pos.
"T.T." .....	11	2	...	—	—	...	6	—
Accredited .....	2	1	...	—	—	...	2	—
Ungraded .....	9	7	...	—	—	...	9	2
Pasteurised .....	—	—	...	2	—	...	1	—
Totals .....	22	10	...	2	—	...	18	2



## Food and Drugs Sampling

The Lancashire County Council sampling officers took the following samples during the year, in addition to 36 samples of milk :—

Sauce .....	2	Rum .....	1
Tomato ketchup .....	1	Beef sausage .....	1
Cakes .....	2	Cheese .....	1
Arrowroot .....	1	Cooking fat .....	1
Ice cream .....	1	Milk — condensed, full	
Custard powder .....	1	cream, unsweetened .....	1
Table jelly .....	1	Dates .....	1
Canned sild .....	1	Sardines, canned .....	1
Whisky .....	3	Carrots, canned' .....	1

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine.

## ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

Manufacturers (hot-mix) .....	3
Manufacturers (cold-mix) .....	1
Vendors (shops, etc.) .....	24
Hawkers .....	1

## WATER SUPPLY

### Raw Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations .....	9
Chemical Analyses .....	1

### Treated Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations .....	46
Chemical Analyses .....	2



## HOUSING INSPECTIONS

### Unfit Dwelling Houses

1	(a)	Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts .....	131
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	309
2	(a)	Number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	8
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	16
3	(a)	Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation .....	8
	(b)	Number of houses, excluding 3 (a) above, found not in all respects fit for human habitation .....	78
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....			42

### Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....		6
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :		
	(a)	By owners .....	14
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	4
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....		3
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners .....	7
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT**

### **Shops**

The majority of shops in the district are combined with dwelling-houses, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. The most unsatisfactory conditions in a number of food premises is the absence of a constant hot water supply, and until the present legislation is amended very little can be done to improve conditions.

### **Smoke Abatement**

A number of observations were taken during the year, and in one case heavy pollution of the atmosphere occurred. Statutory action had eventually to be taken, as the boiler was inadequate, and a larger type of boiler is being installed.

### **Rodent Control**

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed for this work. A considerable number of inspections were carried out at small agricultural premises and henpens, etc., which are situated on the outskirts of the town. Regular inspection and treatment of these premises is a contributory factor to the prevention of infestation of nearby premises. One maintenance treatment of sewers in conjunction with test baiting was carried out, and very little infestation was found. 103 minor infestation of rats and mice at private premises and 13 minor infestations of rats at Local Authority premises were dealt with during the year.

### **Sanitary Accommodation**

Sixty-eight waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets, and a grant of £8 was allowed in each case. The grant was raised from £6 to £8 due to the increase in cost of materials and labour. The reduction in pail closets is due to dwellings becoming vacant. These dwellings will not be re-let, as demolition orders have been made and are now in operation. There are 2,132 waste water closets in the district.

### **Factories**

Forty-four inspections were made to various factories. It is pleasing to report that many of the factories have installed modern type sanitary annexes, and a number of trough and waste water closets have been converted.





### **Rag Flock Act, 1951**

One factory was registered under the provisions of the above Act, which came into force on the 1st November, 1951. The purpose of the Act is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined. There are no manufacturers of rag flock or other filling materials in the district.

### **Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.**

A few isolated caravans are stationed on the outskirts of the town, and a full report will be given to the Council with a view to licencing one or more permanent caravan sites. One caravan used for human habitation was removed under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act.

### **Public Cleansing and Salvage**

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out by the Public Health Department. Two vehicles are used, both being nine cubic yard side loaders. No serious curtailment of work was encountered by mechanical breakdown of the vehicles. The policy of allowing adequate time for maintenance of the vehicles is a wise one, as small authorities cannot have a spare vehicle on hand whilst major repairs and overhauls are carried out.

A mechanical gulley-emptier is now in use, and it is now possible to cleanse all the gulleys in the district at regular intervals, and, in addition, the work is now carried out in a thorough and clean manner. The machine has been loaned to other authorities, and it is pleasing to have close co-operation with neighbouring authorities in the pooling of resources.

Mechanical sweepers, gulley emptiers and angle dozers for tip work are not an economical proposition for a small authority, but become a definite possibility if such machines can be shared by three or more users.

Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip has been levelled by a bulldozer and a marked improvement has resulted in the appearance of the site.

A successful year was experienced in the recovery of salvage, and the table below shows the steady increase in tonnage of waste paper throughout the years :

	1951				1950				1949				1948			
	T.	C.	Q.		T.	C.	Q.		T.	C.	Q.		T.	C.	Q.	
Waste Paper	137	1	3	...	98	12	0	...	93	19	1	...	70	18	2	
Value	.....	£2,023		...	£545		...		£526		...		£443			



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### Public Health and Housing Act

#### Housing Defects

Inspections .....	131
Re-visits .....	178

#### Sundry Defects

Inspections .....	195
Re-visits .....	155
Overcrowding .....	1
Verminous premises .....	12

#### General

Accumulations .....	86
Drainage .....	205
Defective Bins .....	27
Public Conveniences .....	33
Rats and Mice .....	66
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	92
Salvage .....	92
Schools .....	21
Shops .....	86
Smoke Observations .....	17
Theatres .....	8
Animals .....	3
Miscellaneous .....	202

#### Factories

Inspections .....	44
Re-visits .....	60

#### Infectious Diseases

Inquiries .....	33
Disinfections .....	30

#### Food Premises

Bakehouses .....	44
Butchers .....	25
Dairies .....	14
Fish Fryers .....	36
Fruiterers .....	25
Farms .....	26
Ice Cream .....	20
Market Stalls .....	22
Cafes .....	15
Unsound Food .....	70



# CLEANSING SERVICE

Table showing costs for the year ended 31st March, 1952

Items	Particulars	Refuse Collection including Nightsoil Removal	Refuse Disposal	Salvage	Street Cleansing including Gully Cleansing Street Sweeping (District)
A	Gross Expenditure .....	£2,404	£641	£800	£672
B	Gross Income .....	£118	Nil	£2,081	Nil
C	Net Cost .....	£2,286	£641	£1,281 (Credit)	£672
D	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises .....	£571	£160	Nil	Nil
E	Net cost per 1,000 population	£208	£58	Nil	Nil
F	Net cost ; equivalent rate in the £ .....	9.1	2.5	Nil	2.6
G	Percentage of F to total rates in the £ .....	3.7%	1.02%	Nil	1.09%





